

UC SHIP Meeting Minutes 12/1/2023 1-

2pm:

Attendees: Dr. Oluwatosin Jegede, Norah Park, Dr. Sarah Clavell Storer, Jill Battikha, Karin Omark, Dr. Stacie San Miguel, Tes Nebrida, Aimee Basom-Turpin, Tatsuya Yoshida, Erika Yu, Evi Iswanti

Absences: Dr. Gina Fleming

Discussion:

- Adoption of November 17 Meeting Agenda
- Introduction of New Members
 - Tatsuya from Rady's School of management
 - Erika Yu, SHWAB Representative
 - Evi Iswanti, ISA Representative
- Presentation by the Head of Pharmacy, Rex Vargas
 - Rex Vargas, the Head of Pharmacy, delivered a presentation highlighting key points about the pharmacy services on campus. He emphasized that while the pharmacy is extensive, it might not be widely recognized beyond a regular pharmacy. However, it offers medications at a lower cost compared to external pharmacies. Rex expressed the desire for students to be aware that the drugs provided are the same as those available at a regular pharmacy. He mentioned that a majority of prescriptions come from in-house, but UCSD has connections with various specialty providers. Additionally, students can use any other pharmacy at different UCs, but the \$5 copay at UCSD is more affordable than the \$10 copay elsewhere, emphasizing the importance of keeping it in-house to support student health services.
 - Jill commented on UCSHIP copays for prescriptions, stating that generic drugs have a \$5 copay, while brand-name drugs range from \$40 to \$100. She highlighted that students may pay out of pocket for prescriptions if they don't have UCSHIP. The pharmacy also sells over-the-counter items at a reduced price compared to external retailers, offering a discount to all students. The pharmacy website provides information about available medications and predicted prices.
 - Jill asked about the current state of weight loss medication and the coverage/lack of coverage for Ozempic.
 - The main reason for not covering weight loss medications is cost. Optum would have to decide if it is related to diabetes or just weight loss in general. We should rather invest in finding other ways to help with diabetes other than high-cost medications.
 - The other reason is demographics and that there aren't as many students who would utilize these benefits
 - Dr. San Miguel highlighted that UC SHIP is a self-insured plan, and this year, there may be a \$55 million deficit. To control costs and prevent deficits, a focus on evidence-based generic medications was emphasized. Per person, weight loss medications would cost around \$15,000.
 - We are working on reports with statistics for the students with morbid obesity who would utilize these medications in order to get a better idea of utilization and addition to premiums.
- Matters arising from the previous SHIP meeting:
 - Regarding matters arising from the previous SHIP meeting, one suggestion was to increase the copay for emergency room visits for UCSD and potentially make the copay \$150 from the current \$125 per visit. We envisage that this may make a difference in the rates of ER visits.
 - Changes to the Chargemaster were under consideration, with efforts to reduce the copay for out-of-pocket expenses from \$3000 to \$2000 as a combination of pharmacy and medical out-of-pocket costs, as mentioned in previous meetings.
 - Erika raised questions about ER copays, and it was clarified that ER services are covered in full, except for a copay of \$125. For context, it is emphasized that ER services are for situations threatening life or limb, and UC (Urgent Care) is for non-emergencies that cannot wait for a scheduled appointment. If students are seen at SHS rather than the ER, a good amount of costs from ER visits can be minimized.

Initiatives/Future Steps:

- Dr. San Miguel mentioned finding ways to enhance the after-hours advice line to facilitate prescription writing without a physical visit, and improving promotion to increase student awareness of UC SHIP. Dr. Clavell Storer also said that CAPS can receive counseling 24/7, which further helps reduce costs.
- Addressing concerns about information reaching students, plans were discussed to send campus-wide notifications with links to information about copays and ER visits. The UCSD app and collaboration with Student Affairs were suggested to enhance information dissemination. Tosin also encouraged all attending students to help spread information to their colleges about UC SHIP.
- The meeting concluded with Jill noting the upcoming renewal documents submission on December 15, where proposed changes for the campus and system-wide would be presented (which will include proposals for ER copay).
- The EOB meeting is on December 5th, and Tosin and Norah will report important information that was voted on/discussed at the next meeting.

All Other Updates:

The meeting was adjourned at 2pm. Next meeting will be on Friday, 01/19/2024 from 1 to 2pm.